



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 6959

January Session, 2015



**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP A PILOT
EARN AND LEARN PROGRAM.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force
2 to develop a pilot earn and learn program for implementation not later
3 than July 1, 2016, at a regional community-technical college, a state
4 university and an independent institution of higher education. The
5 pilot earn and learn program shall (1) provide opportunities for
6 students of institutions of higher education in the state to engage in
7 applied, work-based learning while earning money to pay for higher
8 education, (2) provide incentives for institutions of higher education in
9 the state to develop the curricula, faculty incentives and support
10 structures to implement work-based learning, (3) encourage employers
11 in the state to foster existing work-based learning experiences and
12 provide additional work-based learning opportunities, and (4) identify
13 ways in which work-based learning is fiscally viable for institutions of
14 higher education and employers in the state. In developing the pilot
15 earn and learn program, the task force shall (A) examine the key
16 characteristics of successful work-based learning programs
17 implemented in other states, including, but not limited to, the
18 financing and administrative structure of such programs and any
19 incentives for students, institutions of higher education, faculty and
20 employers to participate in such programs, (B) identify an entity to

21 administer and oversee such program, and (C) develop criteria for
22 selection of the institutions of higher education at which the pilot earn
23 and learn program will be implemented. For purposes of this section,
24 "earn and learn program" means an academic program that integrates
25 knowledge and theory learned in the classroom with practical
26 application and skills development in a professional setting in the
27 context of a program of supervised employment that compensates the
28 student at a level sufficient to assist such student in financing his or
29 her higher education, as determined by the task force, but in no case
30 less than the minimum fair wage, as defined in section 31-58 of the
31 general statutes.

32 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

33 (1) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
34 who shall be the chief academic officer of a state university under the
35 jurisdiction of the Connecticut State University System;

36 (2) One appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, who
37 shall be the chief academic officer of a regional community-technical
38 college;

39 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
40 Representatives, who shall be the chief academic officer of a regional
41 community-technical college;

42 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who shall be
43 a faculty member of an institution of higher education in the state with
44 experience teaching in a work-based learning program;

45 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
46 Representatives, who shall be a representative of an organization
47 representing businesses in the state;

48 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who shall be
49 a representative of an out-of-state institution of higher education that
50 successfully implemented a work-based learning program;

51 (7) The chief academic officer of The University of Connecticut;

52 (8) The president of the Connecticut Conference of Independent
53 Colleges, or the president's designee;

54 (9) The chairpersons of the joint standing committee of the General
55 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher education,
56 or the chairpersons' designees; and

57 (10) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or the
58 Secretary's designee.

59 (c) All appointments to the task force shall be made not later than
60 thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be
61 filled by the appointing authority.

62 (d) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president
63 pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force
64 from among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall
65 schedule the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not
66 later than sixty days after the effective date of this section.

67 (e) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
68 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher
69 education shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

70 (f) Not later than January 1, 2016, the task force shall submit a report
71 on its recommendations regarding implementation of the pilot earn
72 and learn program to the joint standing committee of the General
73 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher education,
74 in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general
75 statutes. The task force shall terminate upon implementation of such
76 program at the three institutions of higher education selected for such
77 program.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
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HED *Joint Favorable Subst.*